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Public Information for Sale

IT may be merely a coincidence. But newsmen here assigned to the TV investigation say they had a lot of trouble this fall getting any information out of the investigating staff. Several reporters were told Chairman Oren Harris of the House committee had given orders—no interviews.

Anyway, it now develops that one of the staffers, Richard N. Goodwin, classified as a consultant, has sold his own "inside" story to a weekly magazine. Rep. Harris is quoted as saying he o. k.'ed this arrangement providing Mr. Goodwin didn't discuss the work of the

committee. What else did he have to discuss? The whole article is about the committee's inquiry.

It is no skin off our nose—we have had ample coverage of the TV scandal. But we thought this investigation was being run to provide information to the public, not information to be hoarded up for private sale.

The Harris committee has set up itself as a kind of public conscience over the television industry, and other areas of mischief. The Goodwin deal doesn't seem to libe.